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MANCHESTER
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N. H.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
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Miss Helen Pieton

165 Spruce Street

City

5-7054

St. Hedwige Parish

319 PINE STREET

MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Insert here notes on Building Committee on p. 5 & 6.

The first Poles settled in the city of Manchester in the year 1888. A year later the number of families increased to 70. The leaders of this small Polish community, recognizing the necessity of spiritual leadership, approached the late Most Rev. Bishop Denis B. Bradley with the plea that he secure for them a Polish-speaking priest to administer to their spiritual needs.

October 4th, 1900 the newly ordained Rev. John B. Puchala arrived in Manchester from the American College of the University of Louvain to care for the Poles of Manchester. Father Puchala was assigned to the Cathedral Parish, where for two years he devoted his time and efforts to the religious well-being of his people welding them into a solid and well-grounded religious unit.

insert Pages 1 & 2 here

The first Sunday of the month of August in the year 1902 was a happy and glorious day for the Poles of Manchester. It was on this day that the first Polish parish in the city and in the diocese was formally established at the corner of Pine and Merrimack Streets under the patronage of Saint Hedwige, ~~(Queen of Poland)~~

With the approval of the late Bishop John B. Delaney a two story brick building was erected in 1906 on the corner of Merrimack and Union Streets. Feeling the need for more classrooms, a third story was added to the school building now known as Saint Casimir's School. The Felician Sisters were entrusted with the care and teaching of the children of the parish.

A four family house on Merrimack Street was bought by the parish and converted into a suitable dwelling to house the Sisters.

The Parish took advantage of the oppurtunity to buy a sizeable piece of land adjoining the Sister's Convent. This is now being used as a playground for the school children.

In 1914, The Most Rev. Bishop George A. Guertin sanctioned the buying of 23 acres of land in Bedford, N.H. to be used as a burial place for the parishioners of St. Hedwoge Parish. The cemetery bears the same name as that of the parish - St. Hedwige.

insert page 2A & 3 — followed by page 4. Page 2

The ~~Rt~~ Rev. John B. Puchala is the first and only parish priest of St. Hedwige Parish having received his appointment from the first Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester - the Most Rev. Denis B. Bradley, D.D.

Haiti ~~White Lodging~~

During this time, Fr. Puchala was constantly on the ~~alert~~ look-out for a suitable piece of land whereon to build a church for his people. ~~Though he was not successful in acquiring~~ I can also say he heard that the First Christian Church wanted to sell their property on the corner of Pine & Merrimack St. ~~After~~ a Fr. Puchala ~~successfully negotiated~~ thought that this ~~spot~~ property would be ~~not~~ most suitable ~~for the~~ and most centrally located for the widely scattered Polish people of the city and environs. With the permission of the Bishop, Fr.

2.

Puchala bought the property.

A.

In 1950 the parish had acquired 26 acres of land in Bedford, N. H. for the purpose of developing it into a Youth Center for the parish. When this development is finished it will consist of a building housing a basketball court, stage for theatrical performances, dance floor, refreshment booths, inside bowling, outdoor dance floor, swimming pool, baseball and soft-ball diamonds, football field and a beautiful picnic ~~grounds~~ area with picnic tables and benches.

3.

~~The Holy Father~~
~~The most Rev.~~
~~Matthew~~ F. Brady, D.D.
~~Bishop of Manchester~~,
in recognition of the long, faithful and fruitful devotion of Fr. Puchala, on Jan. 16, 1951, elevated him to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. The investiture took place in St. Joseph's Cathedral on March 4, 1951 at the hands of The Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D.D., Bishop of Manchester.

5.

~~St. Hedwig's Parish, approaching its Golden Jubilee in 1952,~~

St. Hedwig's Parishioners, recognizing the need for a more suitable place of worship than the ~~one~~ formerly used, ~~established was used for the past 45 years~~ on Oct 14, 1951, at a general meeting of the parish, formed a new church Building Fund Committee for the purpose of collecting funds to build a new Church as a memorial to their faith and the faith of their children.

The response to the work of the committee has been most gratifying. ~~And it has exceeded~~ ~~its~~ ~~and~~ it has imbued the committee with ~~extraordinary~~ renewed vigor and ardent zeal to see their work

6.

brought to a successful end.

~~With this in mind,~~ At the last meeting, a special Appeals Committee headed by Joseph Bellew, Esquire in Bankruptcy was formed for the purpose of contacting those, who, though not parishioners, would like to contribute towards this new Church.

The Polish people of St. Hedwig's Parish, mindful of their humble beginnings here in Manchester, are looking forward to the day when they will be able to worship in a new and beautiful ~~Church~~ ~~but~~ Church.

7.

On Oct. 12, 1947 the most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, D.D. dedicated the Calvary Group monument erected by the donations of the parishioners in memory of the Fallen Dead of both World War I and World War II.